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OFFICIALS DISCUSS RESULTS OF PEACE MISSION

Sepulveda Meets Press

PA211512 Paris AFP in Spanish 0454 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jan (AFP) -- The UN and OAS secretaries general have offered the Central American governments the services of their organizations to verify and control agreements.

This announcement was made this evening by Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, who held a preliminary press briefing on the results of the peace tour completed today by the Contadora and Support Groups' foreign ministers and the UN and OAS secretaries general.

Sepulveda said that the offer would allow a number of mechanisms to be created to implement principles contained in the peace document issued by Contadora, the reactivation of which was one of the tour's aims.

He said that the UN and OAS secretaries general proposed eight mechanisms to verify agreements that the Central American governments may reach to achieve regional peace.

These would include border control, international observation, economic cooperation, and political mechanisms.

During a news conference attended only by the eight foreign ministers, Sepulveda said: "Contadora has decided to gather all the parties around an essential group of agreements to reactivate the dialogue." However, he did not detail what those agreements were. Among the results of the tour he listed the willingness of the five Central American presidents to support the peace process and remove the obstacles that resulted in the suspension of the dialogue last June.

He said that the five presidents share the Contadora Group's views on tbe fact that the conflict has worsened, and on the dangers posed by a break in the dialogue.

Sepulveda stated that the eight foreign ministers are aware that understanding on the part of the the five Central American countries is imperative.

He added: "We need to obtain that contribution to peace."

Sepulveda expressed appreciation for the role of the secretaries general in the tour, explaining that they were not participating in the news conference because it was a briefing on initial, not final, results of the tour.

He recalled that the principal aims of the tour included gathering opinions from the heads of state on the regional dialogue.

Other aims were to contribute to restablishing a climate of trust so that diplomatic negotiations can be resumed, and to explore viable and priority actions to resolve the Central American conflict.

Meanwhile, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said that the Contadora and Support Groups' creative diplomatic effort regarding the Central American conflict "is all but complete."

He said that the members of the groups "can only promote ideas. The solution depends on the parties involved."

Asked about the U.S. position on the Central American crisis, Caputo admitted that "the U.S. Government is not in favor of a point that for us is essential to reach peace," in reference to U.S. support for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

The Latin American foreign ministers will meet this evening and again tomorrow, when they will submit a final evaluation document on the tour that began in Panama on Monday, and which included stops in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

UN Chief Deplores 'Politicking'

FL212216 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2046 GMT 21 Jan 87

[By Roberto Gonzalez Perez]

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today that there is no political desire in Central America for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict.

During a press conference granted after his 2-day trip through five Central American countries, the UN leader said there is an unwillingness to sacrifice positions or renounce determined requirements in favor of a global solution.

Nevertheless, Perez de Cuellar said his recently concluded tour through Central America with the eight Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers as well as OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares is not and will not be the final opportunity for a peaceful solution.

There is little the Contadora Group can do if there is no authentic political will on the part of the countries involved, said Perez de Cuellar, who added that the peace group is not able to impose solutions.

He also said it would be absurd to think that the Central American problem will be solved with political formulas since the causes of the conflict are socioeconomic and the negotiating process should adopt short- and long-term political and economic ideas.

The UN secretary general, who will inaugurate the ECLA meeting tomorrow in Mexico City, said arriving at a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Central American conflict depends on the degree of sincerity on the part of the nations involved.

We want those countries to sincerely express their position, he said. That is indispensable in avoiding misunderstandings, poor interpretations, and ambiguities, Perez de Cuellar said. There is a need for calling things as they are seen, he said. Either peace is wanted or it is not and if peace is wanted, he said, under what conditions.

When asked about the possibility of sending a UN peace force to Central America, Perez de Cuellar said this is one of the possible solutions but it is too early to consider this since there are no military activities in the region that would justify their presence. Military and civilian observers could be considered, he said, but that possibility is remote.

He called on the five Central American countries to abandon what he called the policy of politicking [la politica politiquera] and dedicate themselves to arriving at a solution to the problem. Perez de Cuellar said that after he returns to New York he will begin working on a report of his tour to present to the UN Security Council.

A reporter asked the UN secretary general about the possibility of replacing the Contadora Group. It would be dangerous to create another process, he said, because it would discourage arriving at a solution.

Perez de Cuellar said the Contadora Group is not discouraged. During their trip to Central America, he said, they found renewed inspiration and it would be false and misleading to say the peace group is discouraged.

During the press conference held at the Hotel Camino Real, Perez de Cuellar said the ECLA meeting will not only analyze the Latin American debt problem, since its goal is regional development. Obviously, he said, there is an invisible bridge of interest payments to the international banks. He said the debt is a responsibility shared by the creditors and debtors since industrialized countries have carelessly loaned money [prestaron sin ver] for a long time and now they have to help.

Immediately after the press conference, Perez de Cuellar toured Mexico City to observe the reconstruction of areas damaged by the September 1985 Earthquake.

He had lunch scheduled in the afternoon with Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and meetings with Finance Secretary Gustavo Petricioli and Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez.

Tonight, Perez de Cuellar will be the guest of honor at a dinner offered by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid.

ALFONSIN TO CRUISE THROUGH UK EXCLUSION ZONE

PY212255 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Jan 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Vice President Victor Martinez said here yesterday that Argentina did not want any brushes or pressures on the subject of its conflict with Britain over the Malvinas Islands, because its policy was to be always open to any type of dialogue.

Martinez, who was closeted with President Raul Alfonsin for almost two hours, also said there were no plans for Alfonsin to meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan's special envoy on Central America, Philip Habib, who was currently in London for talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The daily LA RAZON said in its morning edition that Habib would bring a proposal from Thatcher on the Malvinas and apparently this prompted Martinez' comment that Argentina would not accept any pressure.

Diplomatic sources commented on the possibility that Habib might try to convince Thatcher to initiate talks with Argentina on the Malvinas issue as part of secret negotiations reportedly going on with the mediation of the United States.

The report was also carried by the London daily THE OBSERVER which said Habib would attempt to pressure Thatcher into holding the talks.

But government circles here said Habib was not involved in the Malvinas issue and that during a lightning visit he paid to Buenos Aires last week for talks with Alfonsin and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo the situation in Central America was the only issue discussed.

The vice-president said he had discussed the Malvinas issue with Alfonsin and especially the fact that Britain would enforce its 150-mile fisheries conservation zone around the archipelago as from February 1.

They had also discussed the imminent enforcement of fishing agreements signed with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria which might be affected by the British measure, Martinez said.

Informed sources said Alfonsin would be visiting military bases in the Antarctic later this month and would then return to Ushuaia from where he would embark on February 1 abroad the ice-breaker Almirante Irizar for an unknown destination which was presumed to be some port along the Atlantic coast.

The sources said the ice-breaker would not have any escorts on its trip which would carry it past the Isla de los Estados -- Argentine territory but included in the fisheries conservation zone -- and straight into the exclusion zone.

It was presumed the trip was intended to highlight Argentina's opposition to the fisheries conservation zone.

Meanwhile, former Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez, who was in office at the start of the south Atlantic war between Argentina and Britain in 1982, yesterday blamed British "intransigence" for the failure of the former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's mediation mission in the conflict.

In a letter to LA NACION, Costa Mendez said Haig delivered a proposal of an agreement promoted by Britain which ruled that the final status of the islands would be determined in keeping with the "wishes and interests of their stable population and through an opinion poll."

The former foreign minister said this clause was unacceptable to Argentina stressing that under the United Nations ruled on decolonization this has to be carried out on the principle of territorial integrity and protecting the interests of the inhabitants but not consulting them.

"Argentina did not refuse to listen to the islanders and to consider their wishes but it could not accept that the final decision was subject to their vote," Costa Mendez said.

He said if Argentina did not abide by the UN rules it would be ignoring a "fundamental essence of our action and we would concede to Britain the enforcement of the principle of self-determination of the inhabitants."

Costa Mendez said Haig put an end to his mediation on April 27 -- 25 days after Argentina invaded the Malvinas -- when he submitted the document.

Argentina objected to the clause and asked that it be changed "but the mediator replied that it was final and irreversible," Costa Mendez said.

BRIEFS

BUENOS AIRES MAYOR DIES -- Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA) -- Buenos Aires Mayor Julio Cesar Saguier has died from an illness and former Interior Secretary Facundo Suarez Lastra has been appointed mayor by President Alfonsin. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1115 GMT 15 Jan 86 PY]

AUSTRAL DEVALUED -- The Argentine Central Bank today ordered a 0.94-percent devaluation of the austral. This is the third minidevaluation in January 1987. The total accrued devaluation for the year is 2.86 percent. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Jan 87 PY]

BARCO QUERIED ON ECONOMY, FOREIGN POLICY

PA160316 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0230 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Interview with President Virgilio Barco by Jacobo Zabludovsky, director of AGENCIA ECO NOTICIAS; in Bogota; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Zabludovsky] Dr Virgilio, president of the Republic of Colombia, has been good enough to receive us here. Mr President, thank you very much.

[Barco] It is an honor to receive a journalist of your international stature.

[Zabludovsky] Thank you, sir. You have been living in this house and working out of this office for several months. What are the main problems you have faced during this time?

[Barco] It has been 3 months. Time goes by very quickly. The problems we have had are typical in every transition. There has not only been a change in style, but a radical change in the political system. We have been through government systems under constitutional norms -- what was called the National Front -- in which responsibility was shared. From that we moved to other systems in which participation was equal between the executive branch and the minority party. From that we have moved on to a system of government versus opposition party. That requires a process of self-education because both the conservatives and the Patriotic Union -- which is a coalition of left-wing forces -- have placed themselves in the opposition.

It is a political experience that existed in Colombia for several decades. Naturally, all of this requires a process of adjustment on the part of the institutions and public opinion. The mentality of the National Front still persists: The mentality of the government is a result of pacts and agreements between the leaders of the traditional parties, without taking into account electoral results and the possibility that democarcy will be weakened. It is not easy to do away with this tradition.

In addition, there are all the problems that result from the budget deficit: the reorganization of the debt to accommodate it to the program we announced during the electoral campaign. And naturally, there are problems linked to the guerrillas, terrorism, violence, organized crime -- including drug trafficking -- which as you know, are old problems that have existed for many years.

[Zabludovsky] You mentioned various domestic political problems, Mr President, and I will get back to them in a moment. However, I would like you to explain whether Colombia, which has promoted the Contadora Group peace efforts for so long, will continue to support them now under the new government you head.

[Barco] As has been recognized internationally, my administration continues to advance the Contadora Group peace efforts. When I began my term I called an informal meeting with all the heads of state and foreign ministers linked to the Contadora and Support Groups. The meeting was held when they came to participate in the inaugural ceremonies. The current Colombian foreign minister, Ambassador Julio Londono, has been and is one of the principal figures in the Contadora process. He continues in that role. He has in-depth knowledge of the history of the group, its accomplishments, and also of its weaknesses.

Recently, both at the OAS and the United Nations, we reiterated our support for the group's efforts, and I am continuing the contacts with all parties connected to the process, including the countries with links to and interests in the region.

[Zabludovsky] I get the impression, Mr President, that Colombia is one of the few countries -- a privileged country in this sense -- in Latin America that does not have problems in the handling of its foreign debt vis-a-vis the world's bankers. Colombia has ample credit, and this leads us to believe that Colombia has a privileged position in its negotiations with creditors.

[Barco] Colombia maintains good relations with its creditors. There are problems, but they are not serious. However, we are concerned about the serious problems of the Latin American countries, our neighbors. They concern us and we empathize with them. During a recent visit I made to Washington, in my capacity as president of the assembly of governors of the IMF and World Bank, I had the opportunity to renew contracts and reaffirm the Colombian Government's priorities with regard to international financing and public investment. Among others, I promoted the national Rehabilitation Plan, targeted at the weakest sectors of the population in those regions traditionally on the fringe of development programs. I also pointed out the priority emphasis we have given to a strategy to eradicate so-called absolute poverty. As is common knowledge, both the Latin American system, SELA, and the OAS have endorsed this program and are interested in seeing this struggle against poverty be vigorously assumed throughout the hemisphere.

[Zabludovsky] During your visit to the United States at the end of September you supported the U.S. approach to the foreign debt issue, although you asked debtors to make further efforts. The Cartagena Agreement seeks an equitable arrangement between the debtor countries and their creditors. Has your position changed regarding the Cartagena Agreement?

[Barco] No, not exactly. A year before this meeting in Washington I addressed Mr Klausen, the World Bank president. In addition, President Fidel Castro had called for a meeting on the Latin America debt in Havana, a meeting which I could not attend. However, I addressed the two of them mentioning the Latin American problems. I believe that his had an influence on the Baker plan. Therefore, we actually took the initiative. Later on, when Colombia was appointed to preside at the governors meeting, a year ago, I had the opportunity to again present this situation in Washington. I reiterated there the need to take into account the growth conditions of the national economies when making the economic adjustment plans. I also mentioned the need for creditors to admit their responsibilities in the debt problem. Colombia remains in solidarity with the Latin American countries and the Third World countries that are enduring very difficult times because of the very high level of the debt, the terms of the debt, and the payments now being demanded.

In my statements at the meeting of the World Bank and IMF governors, and speaking on behalf of all Latin American nations -- including those members of the Cartagena Agreement -- I asked for a more flexible, realistic, and creative attitude by the international creditors. It is not possible to ignore the devastating political and social impact of this situation in Latin America. Political will, imagination, and concentration should lead us to an alternative favorable to debtors and creditors.

[Zabludovsky] Mr President, Latin America has not always managed to be optimistic about its foreign debt problem. For example, Colombia has complained that the United States regards Latin America as its backyard. What is the Colombian postition towards the United States?

[Barco] Well, Colombia has a very respectable and serious tradition in its international policy. We have had relations in which sovereignty and international law are respected with all nations. We have been guardians of our independence. Within this context, we have been friends of the great U.S. democracy; however, this does not imply that we depart from the pluralism that inspires our international relations. We maintain a clearly autonomous position regarding the various interests and the traditional guidelines of our international policy.

[Zabludovsky] Mr President, now that you have mentioned plurality, the winds of democracy are blowing on the two Andean slopes. Do you believe that democracy in Latin America is a new trend, an anomaly? What does this democracy mean to you?

[Barco] Well, I believe that democracy is a Latin American tradition despite the ups and downs we have experienced. Colombia, whose democratic tradition goes back to its independence at the beginning of the last century, is witnessing a return to democratic methods. This is something that increases solidarity among the Latin American countries.

[Zabludovsky] Is Colombia, as an OAS member, seeking reforms to this organization? What are the Colombian proposals?

[Barco] Colombia believes in the importance of the international organizations, as we have helped to build them. This is true in particular as regards the OAS. The distinguished name of Alberto Lleras Camargo is linked to the development of the OAS and its most important moments. During my trip to Washington, the Alberto Lleras Camargo institute was created with the support fo the Academic Center for American Studies, CASA [Centro Academico para el Estudio de las Americas], which united the academic efforts of five prestigious universities in the Washington area. This means that at the same time we admit the importance of the existing institutions constituting the inter-American system, we believe in the advantages of adapting them to the [words indistinct] and the aspirations of our people on this historic moment.

Colombia has been working and cooperating in restructuring the OAS. This was done in the so-called Cartagena protocol, and we have continued to promote this effort at reform. Recently, the OAS General Assembly agreed to a Colombian proposal to review the Bogota pact so that the OAS can become an efficient and effective forum to resolve conflicts among the states. I have always believed that the OAS must also become the main political forum of the countries of this continent, because in it we have the opportunity to negotiate directly with the main superpower in the world which must listen to us. We should direct our efforts toward this goal and make all possible efforts to reform the OAS, because guidelines in the political, financial, trade, and technology fields will emerge from it, which will undoubtedly revitalize the continent and make international relations more just.

[Zabludovsky] A few days ago Argentine President Raul Alfonsin told me that his main concern is the Malvinas Islands problem, a chronic problem that occasionally flares up. What is the Colombian Government's position on this issue?

[Barco] The Colombian Government has reaffirmed its solidarity with Argentina's claim of legitimate sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. We have always expressed this solidarity.

[Zabludovsky] Therefore you support Buenos Aires' position?

[Barco] We support Buenos Aires' position and its claims for its rights over the Malvinas Islands.

[Zabludovsky] Will Colombia continue to support the Andean Pact countries?

[Barco] Yes, the Andean Pact, which Colombia helped create, is being subjected to a review process that I consider necessary, because there have been radical changes in the international economic situation and in the Andean Pact countries' economic situation as well. However, the idea of the integration as part of our aspirations and our cooperation and solidarity with the member-countries remains unchanged. Obviously, the pact had to adjust to new realities and learn from past experiences.

In January next year there will be a meeting of the foreign ministers who are in charge of the integration of the Andean Pact countries. They will analyze in detail the crisis the pact is experiencing and will seek solutions to this crisis.

[Zabludovsky] From time to time, more often than we would want, Mr President Barco, we receive reports on terrorist attacks, guerrilla activities, deaths, bombs, and machine-gun attacks in Colombia. What is your government's position -- are there guerrilla groups in Colombia -- what is your government's position in this regard?

[Barco] In my inaugural speech I said that to achieve unity among Colombians we have to consolidate the goals that had already been achieved, and we have to make new advances. That is what we are doing now. Written agreements signed by the previous government are being respected. Those agreements led to a cease-fire.

The government is willing to study new perspectives and to consider new agreement proposals. Our efforts to achieve an agreement are being made within a clear and institutional structure, because we are trying to recover normalcy and reestablish peaceful coexistence.

[Zabludovsky] Does this mean, Mr President, that there are talks or contacts?

[Barco] The government has stated that peace is not an objective, but a result of measures. The first measure is to rehabilitate the most forgotten and poorest regions. We have to provide those regions with accessible roads, with schools, public services, technical assistance for peasants, land-ownership reform and so forth.

We must also replace the old peace and verification commissions. Those commissions are formed by people of good will who, unfortunately, have no connection with the government. I have organized the process under the direction of a presidential delegate who works here at Narino Palace. He has assistants and he has direct contact with the president.

Instead of the complex verification commission, we have appointed judges, very reputable magistrates, to whom citizens can present claims when they are attacked or when a truce is violated.

However, we have not one guerrilla problem but guerrilla groups of many (?kinds). There are some guerrilla groups we can describe as serious Marxist-Leninist guerrillas, while others are terrorists. We also have the drug-traffic problem, which should be the main concern of the international community. A solely domestic, unilateral, or bilateral fight against drug trafficking is not enough. This is why we were pleased to learn President Reagan and his wife are interested in the drug problem. I think the entire civilized world must commit itself to a thorough struggle against this crime, which threatens the true basis of civilization. Drug trafficking and terrorism must become an essential concern of all nations. Colombia is cooperating with international organizations, with neighboring countries, and with the United States, in efforts to fight this scourge of humanity. Tonight we should not become sidetracked, but I insist: We need active and efficient international solidarity. The drug-consuming countries must assume their responsibility in this struggle for humanity.

[Zabludovsky] Do you think there is any connection between terrorist groups and drug traffickers?

[Barco] It is possible that in many regions those groups have common interests. Some of those groups prevent police forces and narcotic agents from entering certain areas. For this, they get arms or money from the other [word indistinct] group. There might be common interests in the struggle against democracy and the nation.

[Zabludovsky] Mr Barco, would Colombia accept U.S. troops, as Bolivia did, to fight drug trafficking?

[Barco] Well I have said repeatedly and clearly -- so there are no doubts about my statements -- that Colombia's sovereignty and independence should not suffer in the struggle against drug trafficking.

[Zabludovsky] Does this mean you would not accept U.S. troops or any foreign troops in your country?

[Barco] We can accept cooperation, we can exchange information and technology, but we have a good narcotics group, an efficient police force, a very professional Army, and I think that all this and the cooperation of all Colombian citizens can help us handle this problem internally. [passage omitted]

ELN REBELS SABOTAGE CANO LIMON-COVENAS PIPELINE

PA211541 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] The state corporation Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] reports that forces of the National Liberation Army blew up a valve of the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline near Tibu, Norte de Santander Department, causing a spill of 2,700 barrels of oil. Meanwhile, tension between Ecopetrol and its workers continues as the latter deny having any connection with the attacks. Labor negotiations are under way.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON FEBRES CORDERO INCIDENT

Resignation Call 'Unconstitutional'

PA211446 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Marco Lara Guzman, secretary general of public information, has said that the request made by some opposition sectors for the president's resignation does not have any constitutional, legal, or moral grounds. It is, he said, an intellectual absurdity that will go down in history not in the chapter of great events but in the chapter of the absurd and ridiculous.

[Begin recording] [Lara] I do not want to state the opinion of the executive branch. Instead, I would rather express the surprise, the great surprise of Ecuadoran citizens over the illogical and unwise action of calling someone who was kidnapped to judge and analyze his conduct. The offenders who carried out the rebellion should be judged, analyzed, and investigated. As far as I know, the president of the Republic did not kidnap himself, he did not shoot himself, and he was not trying to be a target of the bullets fired. There is not a single line, word, or even a comma in the Constitution that discusses a request for resignation. Therefore, the request is unconstitutional. No law has been established for such a request. It is not even logical; it goes against the most elementary reasoning.

What is happening is that within the so-called and self-styled progressive bloc, there is a leadership crisis. In view of the coming elections, all its members are trying to see who who stands out as a leader of that ideologically heterogeneous, contradictory, and illogical amalgam, which is called the progressive bloc. What they have is a struggle to see who will continue as the leader, or who will be the new leader.

[Reporter] On more than one occasion, the government has said that it will not accept requests under pressure. Has this principle been broken as a result of the events in Taura?

[Lara] That is not a principle. A principle is a legal or constitutional principle. Therefore, I deny your assertion. I thought you were going to ask a question.

[Reporter] It is believed that the meeting of the officers, generals, and defense minister with the president of the Republic was an expression of support for the government. Is this true?

[Lara] I think last night's communique...[changes thought] I repeat, I was not at this morning's meeting. I do not know the details of that meeting. However, if we bear in mind the nature of the events and the nature of the constitutional norms and the nature and contents of the communique aired last night on a radio and television network, the answer to your question is obvious. Evidently, there is support for the constitutional system, one of whose branches is the executive branch headed by the president of the republic freely elected in the 1984 elections. [end recording]

In conclusion Lara Guzman warned that the group of commandos who participated in the kidnapping of the Ecuadoran president in the Taura base will have to be turned over to the jurisdictional organs [organismos jurisdiccionales] because President Febres Cordero did not give his word with regard to the jurisdictional repercussions of this action.

Congress To Vote on Call

PA220310 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0150 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 21 Jan (REUTER) -- The Ecuadoran Congress is preparing to vote tonight on a motion to ask for President Leon Febres Cordero's resignation; the session is expected to last throughout the night and continue tomorrow. Each deputy will be allowed 10 minutes to discuss his vote during the lengthy meeting, and the votes of 71 deputies will be counted.

Observers predict that the proposal to ask Febres Cordero to resign and relinquish power to Vice President Blasco Penaherrera will probably be approved because it is supported by the seven groups that comprise the opposition progressive bloc, which has a majority in Congress.

The draft resolution accuses the president of violating human rights, depriving the people of their right to vote, aggressions against Congress, and refusing to carry out congressional decisions.

The resolution also accuses Febres of provoking his kidnapping. The incident was carried out by Air Force paratroopers at the Taura base, near the port ot Guayaquil. Two of his bodyguards were killed and five people were wounded during the action, which was carried out while he was participating in a decoration ceremony.

The mutineers obtained the president's promise that he would not take reprisals in exchange for the release of his 40-member retinue. They also obtained his signature on a document that authorizes the release of General Frank Vargas Pazzos, who had been under arrest since he led two unsuccessful rebellions last March.

Resolution Approved

PA220455 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 0445 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Text] Attention, Ecuador, attention Colombia, attention Latin America and the Third World: At this moment, with Deputy Cesar Verduga's vote, the Ecuadoran Congress has approved the draft resolution -- which no longer is a draft resolution but a congresssional resolution -- demanding that President Leon Febres Cordero step down from office.

Kidnappers Reportedly Arrested

PA211736 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1722 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 21 Jan (EFE) -- Sources reported today in Quito that 80 members of the Air Force group that participated in the kidnapping of Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero were arrested by the Army.

According to eyewitnesses, the rebellious soldiers were forced to board two Ecuadoran Air Force C-130 transport aircraft at the Taura air base near Guayaquil. They were flown to Quito and placed under orders of the Army General Command. On Friday, while being held hostage, President Febres Cordero pledged neither to file charges against the rebels nor to take reprisals against them as conditions for his and his delegation's release.

Commandos 'Transferred'

PA211956 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 1900 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Marco Lara, secretary general of public information, today denied that the members of the commandos who participated in the kidnapping of President Febres Cordero were arrested by the Army, as local press sources have reported.

Approximately 80 members of the Air Force commandos who rebelled on Friday were transferred this morning from the Taura air base to Quitos Mariscal Sucre air base. According to the official report, the rebels received administrative transfers. This is perfectly normal within the Armed Forces, Lara said.

However, eyewitnesses cited today by Radio Quito said that the soliders were forced into two C-130 Hercules Army aircraft after having been disarmed.

Radio Quito and other radio stations reported that a tight security operation was placed in effect near the airport, thereby closing access.

After arriving in the capital, the same sources said, the soldiers were placed under the orders of the Army General Command. Here are Lara's remarks:

[Begin Lara recording -- in progres]... their administrative transfers today. They are currently at the Quito Air Base in an absolutely normal situation as included in military regulations. Let me explain this.

In the Armed Forces it is perfectly normal for any man to receive an administrative transfer at any given time or for certain circumstances. For those who are familiar with the Armed Forces -- and this is general knowledge -- it is impossible for a military man to remain at one post permanently. In this case, the administrative transfer proves that the commandos are continuing to serve in the Armed Forces. If this were not so, they would not be able to get an administrative transfer.

The government rejects the rumors that the soldiers were arrested or that any kind of reprisal has been taken against them. This has been nothing but a transfer. It is not a sanction and it is not punishment. It would be foolish to believe that a soldier would stay in one post forever. [end recording]

Vargas Pazzos 'In Hiding'

PA211832 Paris AFP in Spanish 1736 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Excerpts] Quito 21 Jan (AFP) -- Air Force General Frank Vargas Pazzos is in hiding today for the 5th consecutive day, after being exchanged on Friday for Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero. Febres Cordero yielded to the demands of 100 paratroopers who kidnapped him. [passage omitted]

The wife of the rebellious general, Miryan Anda de Vargas, and his brothers -- including Christian Democratic Deputy Rene Vargas, who is a retired Army general -- said that Frank Vargas is well in Guayaquil, and is being guarded by several Air Force commandos loyal to him.

In remarks to two U.S. newspapers in Guayaquil, Vargas Pazzos said that he will not leave the country and that he intends to run for the presidency in January 1988.

Spokesmen for the rebel said they fear for his life and that is why he is in hiding. [passage omitted]

Vargas requested through one of his attorneys that the National Congress received him. Thus far, he has not been allowed to meet with members of the local or international press -- except for the two U.S. newspapers with which Febres Cordero held an extended news conference a few hours earlier Saturday -- but he will issue a communique within the next several days, one of his brothers reported.

Student Demonstration Dispersed

PA200252 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0137 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 19 Jan (REUTER) -- This evening police used teargas to disperse a group of antigovernment demonstrators who were outside this agency's offices located approximately 50 meters from the Palace of Government.

Approximately 100 secondary school students, half of them women, were staging an evening protest and shouting slogans against the government when police intercepted them about a block from the palace.

At least two of the demonstrators were arrested and one of the girls was thrown to the ground. Her textbooks were scattered, but, she did not suffer any injuries.

Demonstrations Continue

PA210220 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0137 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Quito, 20 Jan (REUTER) -- For the second consecutive day, secondary school students demonstrated here against the government. The police scattered them with tear gas and water cannons.

The disturbances, which initially resulted in an unspecified number of people being detained and choked by the gases, occured in the downtown area. Signs posted on walls are demanding President Leon Febres Cordero's resignation.

Febres Cordero was kidnapped Friday by Ecuardoran Air Force, FAE, commandoes. In the opposition-controlled Congress, Febres Cordero today faced a political trial to make him resign or have him removed.

Last night, the student demonstrations reached as close as one block from the government palace. An Education Ministry spokesmen today said that classes in secondary and primary schools had not been suspended.

During a news conference at his office today, Febres Cordero said that the government has evidence indicating that far leftist parties, which he did not identify, had helped plan the kidnapping.

PEMEX ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN EXPORT OIL PRICES

FL211241 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0454 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Today PEMEX announced to its crude oil clients abroad that several technical adjustments to the formulas used to determine its export prices have been made.

Such adjustments will increase the prices charged for the isthmus and maya crudes to its markets in America and Europe. The barrel of maya will be increased by 40 cents and the isthmus by 30 cents per barrel.

These increases will be added on 1 February to the increases that have been in effect for the last 45 days.

This was announced at the end of the meeting held by the Committee of Oil Foreign trade chaired by PEMEX Director Mario Ramon Beteta where it was noted that the exporting prices of the isthmus and maya crudes had increased considerably since the beginning of December, 1986.

The parastate explained that the maya crude sold in America went from $10.92 per barrel on 1 December to $15.41 per barrel on 15 January. In Europe, the maya crude increased $5.07 per barrel during that same period reaching $14.91 per barrel.

These figures represent 40 and 50 percent increases, respectively. In the American Continent, the isthmus crude went from $13.57 to $17.78 per barrel during the same period and in Europe, from $12.90 to $17.09 per barrel. In the case of the isthmus crude, the increases surpass 30 percent.

1988 ELECTION REPORTEDLY PROMPTING PRI STATUTE CHANGES

WA201600 [Editorial Report] Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish on 16 Dec 86, on page 2, in his "Political Class" column, Pablo Hiriart discusses possible changes in leadership positions within the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). He notes that "during the months of January and February the changes awaited in the PRI National Executive Committee will take place. There will also be a PRI National Council meeting and a special national assembly, plus changes to the party statutes. All this will take place for the purpose of strengthening the party in view of presidential candidate selection and the ensuing electoral campaign."

In discussing the party statutes, Hiriart concludes by writing that alterations permitting "greater participation in candidate selection by the rank-and-file will not involve selection of the candidate for president but rather those for deputy and senator" if one is to judge by past developments along these lines within the party.

BRIEFS

ARMY DESTROYS MARIJUANA -- Culiacan, Sinaloa, 14 January -- Approximately 4,000 Mexican Army troops began "Operation Centauro" today. This operation was created to fight drug trafficking in Sinaloa. In the action, the Army destroyed 8 tons of marijuana that had been planted in 8 hectares. In addition, Martiniano Martinez, representative of the Attorney General's Office in Oaxaca, reported that three people were arrested for hiding and transporting 1 ton of marijuana. Those arrested are Diego Angel Cruz, Juan Santiago Ramirez, and Benito Ignacio Carlos. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Jan 87 p 2 PA]

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE COMMENTS ON PRIVATE SECTOR STRIKE

PA212111 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 87

[By Raul Beltran]

[Excerpts] Attention, your attention. The following information has been confirmed by this radio station.

The Government of the Republic and the Armed Forces confirmed tonight that they will guarantee to the Salvadoran people that there will be calm and vigilance in San Salvador and that it has taken measures in view of the strike announced by the business sector.

In order to prevent misunderstandings and in view of the wave of rumors and speculation, the Armed Forces and the security posts are on alert to take actions in case of any irregular situation that may arise due to the threat posed by the strike announced by the business sector for 22 January, according to high officials from the Armed Forces and the Presidency.

Announcing his position on the business sector strike, President Jose Napoleon Duarte said this afternoon that they better have the strike because markets will then sell more. They can hold the strike because that means that the poorest will sell more, and we will go out on the streets to defend this government, President Jose Napoleon Duarte stated.

During a brief news conference at the child care center in San Jacinto market, President Duarte said that the issue at this moment is to defend the government for the people and with the people's will.

Duarte strongly noted that he has no fears about the decisions by the entrepreneurs or the big businessmen who will have a strike on 22 January. He added that at this moment the security of the fatherland has been abducted, and that everything must be done in order to rescue it.

President Duarte said that the private sector has said that they will topple this government with this strike. That is what they would like, but they do not know that this government does not depend on the rich people in El Salvador, it depends on the poorest people, the workers, peasants, and housewives. Powerful People in El Salvador have been seeking a coup d'etat, but the military has ignored them and not listened to their calls. They want to show their power. However, they better have the strike because the poorest will then sell more and so will the markets.

Market vendors in San Salvador also responded to President Duarte, and said that if supermarket owners wanted to close them forever, they could do so, which would allow market vendors to earn their living.

Duarte responded emphatically and said that those who for the past 25 years have not wanted to understand the situation of the country have fled to Miami. Only the poorest remained here. Where were the rich? President Duarte asked. He added that he had been asked to struggle for the fatherland, and that is what he is doing and will do.

The rich recently returned from Miami and now want to again rule in the country. Nevertheless, we will impose the will of the majority because here in El Salvador the poorest include more than 4.5 million people, Duarte said. [passage omitted]

I mentioned to you at the beginning of my term that this would be a difficult government, and I have to implement more measures that will hurt. However, we will do this seeking to offer a better future for our children, so that the children of the poorest can live with dignity, Duarte said.

Duarte emphatically stated that he will not remain with his arms crossed. He will face this situation and go out in the streets Thursday.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO VIEWS REDUCTION OF U.S. MILITARY AID

PA211740 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Jan 87 p 56

[Text] The reduction in military assistance to Guatemala can be viewed as a pressure mechanism that the United States is using "to have my government drop its policy of active neutrality," President Vinicio Cerezo said yesterday during a news conference at the National Palace.

The remark came in response to a question about a reduction in U.S. military aid, which was $5 million in 1986 and scheduled to be $2 million in 1987.

Cerezo said that this is a negative attitude adopted by the U.S. Government, which he will ask President Reagan to change.

He said that last year the United States gave Guatemala $5 million in military assistance, which is a ridiculous sum when compared to the support given other countries. Honduras received $12 million aircraft for an insignificant sum, he said.

We believe that President Reagan will correct this decision. If he does not, we will have to interpret this as a means of pressuring Guatemala into supporting U.S. policy in Central America.

President Cerezo said that he "will discuss this problem" with President Reagan when they meet in March. He said that there has been no pressure from the United States to have Guatemala change its neutral policy regarding the Central American crisis.

He said that this policy has its price, however, because right-wing groups want the government "to take up arms."

We cannot request all the aid we need because that would make us dependent, he said. In order to be fully autonomous we must be cautious. Neutrality is a priority this year, he said.

COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE MISSING PEOPLE

PA212112 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 20 Jan (EFE) -- Today, the Guatemalan Government announced the creation of a commission to investigate the disappearance of 40,000 people during the past 20 years of military regimes.

Announcing its creation, presidential spokesman Julio Santos said that the commission will begin working on 1 February and have 4 months, until 31 May, to render its report.

The Mutual Support Group (GAM), which comprises the relatives of the missing people, had requested the creation of this commission 1 year ago.

The commission's report "will have to answer the questions posed by GAM," the presidential spokesman added.

Aside from an answer about the fate of the missing people, the GAM demanded punishment for those responsible for the disappearances. The GAM points to General Fernando Romeo Lucas, a former Guatemalan president, among other prominent military officers, as the culprits.

The list of culprits presented by the GAM also includes Army General German Echupina Barahona, a former police director, and former Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz.

The GAM requested that when the commission is formed it include the participation of "international personalities that guarantee the impartiality and fairness of the investigators."

This request was one of the points that prevented the creation of the commission in 1986 because President Vinicio Cerezo refused to agree to prevent a "foreign intervention" in the country's domestic affairs.

Santos said that, according to a Cerezo decision, "the commission will include the special participation of the human rights prosecutor."

However, he refused to comment on the fact that Congress has been unable to choose a human rights prosecutor because none of the lawyers asked to serve in this position would accept the proposal.

Santos added that "the names of those who will make up the commission cannot be disclosed because they will be the subject of consultations with GAM leaders."

He added that the agreement creating this commission will be "issued" before the end of the month because "we first have to have the complete list of commission members and their guarantee that they have all agreed to become part of it." [passage omitted]

GRANMA HIGHLIGHTS TRADE PROTOCOL WITH USSR

PA212027 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2318 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Havana, 19 Jan (EFE) -- Trade between the Soviet Union and Cuba, its main client in Latin America, will supposedly amount to more than 8.5 billion rubles (more than $9 billion) in 1987. The amount of the trade protocol signed in Moscow recently, surpasses the previous year's figure by 300 million rubles. The 1986 figure amounted to 8.2 billion rubles (approximately $9 billion).

A report published today in the newspaper GRANMA, the official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, indicated that, this year, the Soviet Union will ship to Cuba various kinds of machinery, farm equipment, trucks, automobiles, fuel, cranes, food, chemical products, fertilizers, and ferrous as well as nonferrous metals, among other products.

In exchange, the Caribbean nation will export sugar, nickel products, fresh and canned citrus fruits, tropical fruits, tobacco, and other products to the Soviet Union.

Cuba has been one of the Soviet Union's seven largest trade partners since 1983. Trade between the two countries represents more than 70 percent of all Cuban foreign trade.

The USSR, Cuba's strongest supporter among the 10 countries that make up CEMA, sends approximately 11 million tons of oil and oil byproducts to Cuba per year at half the international market price.

In addition, the USSR buys approximately 3.5 million tons of sugar (almost half of Cuba's total production) at a price 10 times greater than the world market price, which is now at approximately $0.06 [unit not identified]. [passage omitted]

HUNGARIAN MNOT PRESIDENT MEETS WITH FMC LEADERS

FL210232 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Lajosne Duschek, president of the National Hungarian Women's Council [MNOT] and member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, has met with Dora Carcano, secretary general of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC].

Also participating in the meeting was Maria Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and member of the FMC National Secretariat.

The MNOT president visited areas of economic and social interest in Havana City including the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical Surgical Hospital, the Fe del Valle Cadre School, the headquarters of the national CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], and she visited Matanzas Province where she learned of the grass-roots work carried out by the FMC.

[Video interview with Duschek follows with superimposed Spanish translation]

[Duschek] I can see that life here is developed in an equal balance. It has been good to see the efforts made by Cuban women shoulder-to-shoulder with Cuban men in constructing socialism.

BRAZILIAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ARRIVES

FL220149 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Text] Brazilian Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes arrived today on an official visit at the invitation of his Cuban counterpart, Manuel Castillo Rabassa, who welcomed Magalhaes at the Jose Marti International Airport.

Magalhaes is the first Brazilian minister to visit Cuba since they reestablished diplomatic relations on June 25th.

In his talks with Cuban authorities, the Brazilian minister will discuss cooperation in the satellite communications area and analyze the possibility of Brazil exporting to Cuba public telephone equipment and automatic centers for 100,000 and 108,000 apparatuses.

'TEN OF THOUSANDS' MARCH IN SALVADORAN PROTEST

PA180255 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Ten of thousands marched this Saturday in the main streets of San Salvadora to protest against the regime's economic policy and the forced recruitment by the Army.

Workers, peasants, and students from some 100 organizations participated in the demonstration called by the National Union of Salvadoran Workers. A group of U.S. youths who rejected the Washington policy in Central America also participated in the demonstration.

The demonstrators had slogans against the taxes approved in December by Jose Napoleon Duarte and denounced the huge foreign debt, the accelerated inflation process, and the unconditional submission of the regime to the White House, which have led the country to the most serious crisis in its history.

TRABAJADORES SAYS PEACE 'BAD WORD' TO U.S.

PA202300 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jan 87

["What the Press Has To Say" segment read by Maruja Garcia and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Comments about U.S. foreign policy have been abundant and unfavorable. Of course, the White House's conduct justifies all the negative comments that have been made about the U.S. Government's top echelons. The newspaper TRABAJADORES, official organ of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, carries an article written by the well-known journalist (Juan Duflar Amel) in which he makes reference to Washington's plans for interference in Central America.

(Duflar Amel) notes that to the U.S. Government, the word peace has become a bad word. Reagan's ultrarightist doctrine for foreign policy and international relations, defended ideologically in the Santa Fe document, can be condensed in an epitaph: Detente is death. Moreover, he subordinates the interests of world peace to this caveman concept. If the meeting at Reykjavik was the latest and most polished expression of this warmongering and anticommunist policy, the origins of its applications go back precisely to Latin America with two immediate targets: the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions.

For those who proclaim that war, not peace, governs international affairs, Nicaragua, like Carthage to the ancient Romans, must be destroyed.

Reagan's obsession and the aid given to the Nicaraguan contras have led the White House to the Irangate disaster, originating a scandal that has undermined and destabilized the foundations of the U.S. Government and swept away public trust and credibility.

The scandal of the arms sales to Iran and the transfer of funds to the Somozist mercenaries has had serious effects on President Reagan's image, but like a stubborn mule [perro huevero], the President persists in his efforts and fervently opposes any peace steps that endanger his interfering and hegemonic plans for Central America.

Now he is trying to obstruct the peace tour that, with praiseworthy purposes, will start on 17 January. The peace mission is made up of the UN and OAS secretaries general and the eight foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups. As a counterbalance to the peace mission, Washington has turned to its special envoy, Philip Habib, who in a warmongering, lighting trip will visit several countries in the area in search of support from subservient associates, after the conspiratory secret meetings held by him and Undersecretary of State Elliott Abrams with the Nicaraguan contras and the foreign minister of Costa Rica in Miami.

In his article, (Juan Duflar) says that, going to inconceivable extremes of arrogance, U.S. Ambassador to the OAS Richard McCormack questioned Secretary General Joao Baena Soares' authority for the mission, stating that his government does not want the organization converted into what he called the caboose of a train whose destination is unknown.

The Yankee imperial policies do not conceive of solutions for international problems through peace missions, as befits civilized nations under international law, but rather through the law of the West: Shoot from the hip.

To further its Central American purposes, the White House gives tremendous aid to the regimes of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and, of course, the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, who in 1988 should receive, if Reagan's budgetary dreams come true, $105 million, which would surpass the amount set aside for 1987.

(Juan Duflar's) article ends with a very eloquent phrase: There is no doubt that the U.S. President, like that other famous madman, pulls out his gun whenever he hears the word peace.

JAMAICA

SEAGA VIEWS CUBA'S 'SURROGATE ROLE' FOR USSR

FL211601 Bridgetown CANA in English 1904 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 17, CANA -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga has called for a set of "rules of the game" in regional super power competition that would preclude direct intervention or the use of surrogates by either side to gain the upper hand.

He claimed that Cuba was carrying out a role of surrogate for the Soviet Union in this hemisphere. He mentioned no corresponding country or region where surrogates acted on the behalf of the United States.

Seaga made his call last night in a speech to the Aspen Institute of the United States, now meeting in the north coast Jamaican city of Montego Bay.

The thrust of Seaga's speech was the need for constructive relations between East and West to ease world tensions, thus minimising the possibilities of conflict.

"...In a constructive relationship there would be the observance of restraint in behaviour at the regional level," Seaga suggested. "What is needed is an understanding that there should be rules of the game: that neither side should seek through subversion, the arming of dissident groups, the use of surrogates or for that matter, outright intervention to gain the upper hand," he added.

According to the Jamaican prime minister, despite signs of a flexibility in the Soviet Union and a possibility of a "softening of ideological rigidities" under a new and young leadership, there was no softening of "international communism", particularly in this region. "Led by Cuba, the pressure may vary from sub-region to sub-region but there is no sign of a weakening on the part of Cuba of its intention to export revolution", Seaga said.

Seaga, a strong anti-communist who had opposed the former Jamaican Government's warm relationship with Cuba, 90 miles away, broke diplomatic relations in Havana in 1981 on the grounds that the Cubans were harbouring Jamaican criminals.

He said in recent year's Havana's strategy of exporting revolution and its influence had shifted "from the broad sweep of the Caribbean and Central America to focus on the latter, given the collapse of a build-up of Cuban influence in Jamaica and Grenada".

"Between the two, the pincer movement on the rest of the Caribbean would have been very effective in exporting by political and military means the Cuban system," he said. "Both failed and so the focus has shifted to the use of the military solution in Central America, El Salvador and Nicaragua," Seaga added.

Seaga's election victory in 1980 over the Democratic Socialist Michael Manley was hailed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan as a victory over communism.

According to Seaga, changes in the Soviet Union could influence Cuba.

"...Hopefully, Cuba as a Soviet satellite could feel obliged to follow a softer line if indeed the Soviet Union seriously embarked on such a course of moderation," he said.

But, according to Seaga, change by the new Soviet leadership was unlikely in an atmosphere of "rigid ideological positions and the pressure of confrontation".

"The time may therefore be ripe to relax rigidities and let the internal pressures of society force changes designed and intended to improve the quality of life of its citizens, given the signs of hopefullness of a young leader who is more susceptible to change," he said.

Among his suggestions in this regard would be a super power recognition and acknowledgement of essential security interests, the development of machinery for consultation on an on-going basis and serious efforts to curb the arms race.

SHEARER SIGNS UK PROMOTION, PROTECTION TREATY

FL210027 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Jamaica and Britain today signed an investment promotion and protection treaty. The agreement, which Jamaica hopes will be a model for similar pacts with other countries, was signed by the minister of foreign affairs and industry, Mr Hugh Shearer, and the minister of state in Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Baroness Young.

Both praised the potential of the agreement to help attract investments to Jamaica. Mr Shearer said the model should be acceptable to other countries where Jamaica is attempting to woo investors.

The treaty is the first of its kind between Jamaica and any country and the first between Britain and a Caricom nation. [passage omitted]